

1 THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES
2 THE HONORABLE MICHELLE L. PETERSON
3
4

5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT SEATTLE

8 B.F. and A.A., minors, by and through their
9 guardian Joey Fields, et al.,

10 Plaintiffs,

11 vs.

12 AMAZON.COM, INC., a Delaware
13 corporation, and A2Z DEVELOPMENT
14 CENTER, INC., a Delaware corporation,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:19-cv-910-RAJ-MLP

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO
COMPEL DISCOVERY
RESPONSES AND
MEMORANDUM OF FACTS AND
LAW IN SUPPORT**

**NOTED ON MOTION CALENDAR:
OCTOBER 18, 2019**

ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nearly two months ago, Amazon¹ moved to stay all merits and class discovery. The Court denied Amazon’s motion. Dkt. 52. Shortly thereafter, the Parties submitted their scheduling proposals to the Court, and Amazon again took the position that there should be no discovery until the Court ruled on its forthcoming motion to compel arbitration. The Court again denied Amazon’s request, and set a four-month class discovery schedule.

Despite this Court’s denial of Amazon’s motion to stay and clear instruction that the parties are to proceed with discovery, Amazon has categorically refused to respond substantively to any of Plaintiffs’ discovery requests, taking the remarkable position that it can withhold responses and documents because “discovery should be stayed and discovery is premature prior to the Court’s decision on Defendant’s pending motion to compel arbitration.” Amazon might believe that “discovery should be stayed” pending resolution of its motion, but this Court has rejected that position. By withholding documents on this basis, Amazon is, in essence, seeking to arrogate to itself the power to impose the very stay that this Court denied. That conduct should not be countenanced. Plaintiffs move under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37(a)(3)(B) for an order compelling Defendants to produce, without delay, responsive documents and/or respond substantively to Plaintiffs’ First Set of Requests for Production and First Sets of Interrogatories.²

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

This action has been pending since June. Dkt. 1. Plaintiffs' amended complaint, setting forth the operative claims and class definitions, has been on file since early July. Dkt. 24. Seven weeks ago, Amazon asked the Court to stay this action indefinitely based on the mere *anticipation* of Amazon filing a motion to compel arbitration. Dkt. 45. As Plaintiffs pointed out in their opposition papers, Amazon's request was unprecedented. Dkt. 48 at 6. The Court denied that

¹ As they have done previously, Plaintiffs refer to Defendants Amazon.com, Inc. and A2Z Development Center, Inc. by the singular collective “Amazon.”

² Plaintiffs’ counsel met and conferred with Defendants’ counsel in accordance with LCR 37(a)(1). See Declaration of Lauren Hudson in support of Plaintiffs’ Motion to Compel Discovery Responses (“Hudson Decl.”) ¶ 8.

1 request in its entirety. Dkt. 52. In so doing, the Court noted that it wanted to keep the case moving
 2 along, and that if some discovery deadlines were removed, the Court was “afraid that it’s going to
 3 languish, and there will be a de facto stay in this case.” Hudson Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 1 (Tr. of Aug. 13,
 4 2019 Hr’g.) at 22:3–6.

5 Plaintiffs served their first interrogatories and requests for production shortly after the
 6 denial of Amazon’s motion, on August 22, 2019. Hudson Decl. ¶ 4, Ex. 2 (Plaintiffs’ Interrogs.
 7 to Amazon.com, Inc.), Ex. 3 (Plaintiffs’ Interrogs. to A2Z Development Center, Inc.), Ex. 4
 8 (Plaintiffs’ Requests for Production (“RFPs”)). The Parties then submitted their Joint Status
 9 Report and Discovery Plan. Dkt. 53. In their joint submission, Plaintiffs proposed a six-month
 10 fact-discovery period, followed by expert discovery and class certification briefing. *Id.* at 9.
 11 Amazon insisted upon the position rejected by this Court just three weeks earlier: “propos[ing]
 12 that the Court stay non-arbitration merits discovery until the Court’s decision on Defendants’
 13 Motion to Compel Arbitration.” *Id.* The argument did not fare any better the second time, and
 14 the Court rejected it by setting a schedule that was more accelerated than even Plaintiffs had
 15 requested, under which class certification discovery is to be completed and a class certification
 16 motion filed by January 7, 2020. Dkt. 54.

17 Amazon responded to Plaintiffs’ discovery requests on September 23, 2019. Hudson Decl.
 18 ¶ 6. Although the Court has unambiguously ordered—twice—that discovery is not stayed,
 19 Amazon took the position that “merits discovery *should* be stayed and Plaintiffs’ discovery
 20 requests are premature until the Court decides Defendants’ pending motion to compel arbitration.”
 21 See *id.*, Ex. 5 (Amazon.com, Inc.’s Objections to Interrogs.), Ex. 6 (A2Z Development Center,
 22 Inc.’s Objections to Interrogs.), Ex. 7 (Defendants’ Objections to RFPs) (emphasis added).
 23 Amazon used this objection as a basis for refusing to provide *any* new facts or responsive
 24 documents. *Id.* In fact, the only documents Amazon offered in response to any discovery requests
 25 were citations to Amazon’s filings in support of its motion to compel. See *id.*, Ex. 5, Resp. Nos.
 26 1–2; Ex. 7, Resp. Nos. 1, 2, 4–18, 24.

27 Amazon also objected to the requests on the basis that no protective order had yet been
 28 entered, and stated that it would “only produce [responsive] information subject to an appropriate

1 protective order.” *See id.*, Ex. 5 (raising objection to nine out of thirteen interrogatories), Ex. 6
 2 (raising objection to five out of six interrogatories), Ex. 7 (raising objection to eighty-nine out of
 3 ninety-four requests for production). To round out its noncompliant responses, Amazon added a
 4 litany of cut-and-paste, boilerplate objections to each request, some of which conflicted directly
 5 with its other objections.³ In its objections to Plaintiffs’ RFPs, Amazon failed to “state whether
 6 any responsive materials are being withheld on the basis of that objection.” *See Fed. R. Civ. P.*
 7 34(b)(2)(C).

8 The day after receiving Amazon’s deficient responses, Plaintiffs’ counsel sought a
 9 telephonic meet-and-confer, which took place three days later on September 27, 2019. *See Hudson*
 10 Decl. ¶¶ 7–8, Ex. 8 (Sept. 24, 2019 A. Schapiro Email). The meet and confer was not productive.
 11 During the call, Plaintiffs’ counsel reminded Amazon’s counsel that their request for a stay was
 12 denied when presented as a motion and was denied when presented again in the joint status report.
 13 *Id.* ¶ 10. There was thus no basis for Amazon to proceed as if discovery had been stayed.

14 In response, Amazon’s counsel cited the August 13, 2019 hearing on Amazon’s motion to
 15 stay, in which the Court noted that “when [Amazon] file[s its] motion to compel arbitration, [the
 16 Court was] assuming that will come with a motion to stay, and that is a better time for the judge,
 17 whoever decides that motion to compel, for them to decide whether or not it’s appropriate to have
 18 a lengthier stay.” *Id.* ¶ 11; ¶ 3, Ex. 1 at 22:7–11. Counsel for Plaintiffs pointed out that nothing
 19 in the Court’s statement suggested that such a stay would be granted *automatically* upon request.
 20 Decl. ¶ 11. To the contrary, the Court observed that the motion to compel might “come with a
 21 motion to stay,” and that this would be the “better time” for the Court to revisit any renewed request
 22 for a stay. Nonetheless, Amazon’s counsel responded that “I don’t think we’re going to reach a
 23 compromise on this and if you need to move then you need to move.” *Id.* ¶ 12.

24

25

26 ³ *See, e.g.*, Hudson Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. 5, Resp. No. 2 (objecting, *inter alia*, that the discovery
 27 request “seeks disclosure of information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary” but
 28 also that the request “seeks information that is equally available to Plaintiffs from other sources
 that are more convenient, less burdensome and/or less expensive, including that are already in
 Plaintiffs’ possession; or are publicly available.”) (emphasis added).

1 Plaintiffs' counsel also addressed Amazon's objections regarding the protective order and
 2 stated that they were fine with the district's model order. *Id.* ¶ 13. While a protective order has
 3 not yet been formally entered, the Parties already agreed to comply with this Court's model
 4 protective order when they served initial disclosures on August 30, 2019. *Id.* ¶ 5, Ex. 9 (Aug. 30,
 5 2019 L. Hudson Email). To the extent Amazon believed a different protective order was
 6 appropriate, the burden was on Amazon to propose one, rather than simply refusing to produce
 7 discovery. Amazon's counsel responded that they would draft and share for Plaintiffs' review a
 8 proposed protective order. *Id.* ¶ 13.

9 With respect to the remaining objections, Amazon's counsel stated that they were not
 10 prepared to discuss each of Plaintiffs' discovery requests, and conceded that because of their
 11 objection to *any* discovery at this stage, they had not even searched for responsive documents to
 12 determine if any existed for particular requests. *Id.* ¶ 14. Amazon confirmed that even if a
 13 protective order were entered in this case, it would refuse to produce any documents until its
 14 motion to compel is resolved. *Id.* ¶ 15.

15 Amazon followed up in an email on October 1, 2019, asserting that "discovery must await
 16 the decision on arbitration" and that Plaintiffs' filing of a motion to compel discovery would be
 17 "an inappropriate and baseless multiplication of proceedings in violation of a litigants [sic] duty
 18 under F.R.Civ.P. 1" because "[i]f the motion to compel arbitration is granted after oral argument,
 19 obviously no discovery would proceed." *Id.* ¶ 16, Ex. 10 (Oct. 1, 2019 T. Newby Email).

20 Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court overrule Amazon's objections invoking a non-
 21 existent stay of discovery, deem Amazon's boilerplate objections waived, compel Amazon to
 22 provide supplemental, substantive responses to Plaintiffs' requests within ten days of the entry of
 23 its order, and grant Plaintiffs' their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection
 24 with this dispute.

25 III. LEGAL STANDARD

26 The Federal Rules broadly authorize discovery "regarding any nonprivileged matter that
 27 is relevant to any party's claim or defense." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). Under those "liberal
 28 discovery principles," a party opposing discovery "carries a heavy burden of showing why

1 discovery was denied.” *Blankenship v. Hearst Corp.*, 519 F.2d 418, 429 (9th Cir. 1975); *see also*
 2 *State Farm Fire & Cas. v. Helen of Troy, LLC*, No. C15-1771-RSM, 2016 WL 7387100, at *1
 3 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 21, 2016) (“The party that resists discovery has the burden to show why the
 4 discovery request should be denied.”). To meet that burden, the objecting party must “adequately
 5 justify their objections and failure to produce [any] requested discovery.” *Id.* at *2. Those
 6 objections must be stated “with specificity,” Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(4); 34(b)(2)(B), rather than
 7 boilerplate generalities. *See Weidenhamer v. Expedia, Inc.*, No. C-14-1239RAJ, 2015 WL
 8 1292978 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 23, 2015) (Jones, J.). When a party fails to respond adequately or
 9 substantiate its objections, Rule 37 authorizes the Court to enter an order to compel, and to award
 10 the moving party its “reasonable expenses incurred in making the motion, including attorney’s
 11 fees” if successful. Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(5)(A).

IV. ARGUMENT

A. Amazon Cannot Grant Itself a Stay of Discovery After Having Been Twice Denied One by This Court.

When the Court denied Amazon’s stay request the first time, it recognized that Amazon could renew that request in conjunction with filing its motion to compel arbitration. *See Hudson Decl.* ¶ 3, Ex. 1 at 22. The Court contemplated a renewed motion for a stay, and did not say that such a stay would be automatically entered. *Id.* Indeed, the Court’s Local Rules make clear that parties should not assume relief merely because they have sought it. *See, e.g.*, LCR 7(j) (“Parties should not assume that [a] motion will be granted and must comply with the existing deadline unless the court orders otherwise”). Nonetheless, Amazon objected globally to Plaintiffs’ first sets of discovery requests as follows:

On September 12, 2019, Defendants Amazon and a2z Development Center, Inc. (“Lab126”) filed a motion to compel arbitration and to dismiss Plaintiffs’ claims on the basis that Plaintiffs’ parents—who were the account holders for the Alexa devices at issue—agreed to arbitrate any disputes with Defendants in binding arbitration on an individual basis. Once the Court determines that assent to arbitration was given by the account holders for these devices, and that these Plaintiffs are bound to those contracts by principles of equitable estoppel, this case should be dismissed or stayed to permit arbitration to proceed on all other issues. As such, merits discovery should be stayed and Plaintiffs’ discovery

1 requests are premature until the Court decides Defendants' pending motion to
 2 compel arbitration.

3 Hudson Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. 5 at 1–2, Ex. 6 at 1–2, Ex. 7 at 1–2. Amazon then reiterated that objection
 4 in response to *every* interrogatory and document request. *See, e.g., id.*, Ex. 5 at 3 (“Amazon objects
 5 to this Interrogatory on the basis that merits discovery *should* be stayed and discovery is premature
 6 prior to the Court’s decision on Defendants’ pending motion to compel Arbitration.”) (emphasis
 7 added).

8 Notwithstanding Amazon’s belief that “discovery should be stayed,” discovery in this case
 9 is *not* stayed. Amazon has already asked this court twice to stay all discovery because its now-
 10 pending motion to compel may result in this case being sent to a different forum. Both requests
 11 were denied. Dkts. 52, 54. However strenuously Amazon disagrees with this Court’s orders, it
 12 does not have the power to grant itself relief that has already been denied. And there is no
 13 ambiguity whatsoever that a stay is not currently in place. Aside from simply reading the Court’s
 14 order—which plainly denied Amazon’s motion—the transcript of the hearing confirms that
 15 discovery remains open. The Court voiced its concern about “keeping this case moving along . .
 16 . if I remove some of these deadlines, I’m afraid that it’s going to languish, and there will be a de
 17 facto stay in this case.” Hudson Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 1 at 22:3–6.

18 In denying Amazon’s motion to stay, the Court noted that it would “not move any of the
 19 other deadlines” because it is “important to keep this case moving.” *Id.* at 20:13–20. Further, the
 20 Court ordered *Plaintiffs* to promptly respond to Amazon’s then-outstanding interrogatory (which
 21 they did) and instructed the Parties to make their initial disclosures and provide a proposed
 22 discovery plan in the weeks that followed. Dkt. 52. If any ambiguity remained in Amazon’s mind
 23 after that order, it should have been removed on September 11, 2019, when the Court entered its
 24 Scheduling Order and set a January 7, 2020 deadline for Plaintiffs to seek class certification. Dkt.
 25 54. Despite the Court’s clear ruling, Amazon has unilaterally created its own stay of discovery,
 26 and has refused to provide *any* documents or answers to interrogatories beyond what was already
 27 submitted in support of its motion to compel arbitration. Not only has Amazon refused to provide
 28

1 any discovery, it admits that it has not even attempted to ascertain whether it possesses documents
 2 responsive to each discovery request. Hudson Decl. ¶ 14.

3 This action is not stayed. *See* Dkts. 52, 54. And although Amazon's motion to compel
 4 arbitration requests that the Court "dismiss this action or stay all proceedings pending completion
 5 of arbitration" (Dkt. 55 at 24), that motion of course has not been granted, and Amazon has not
 6 filed any motion for a stay pending *determination* of its motion to compel arbitration. Amazon
 7 appears to believe the Plaintiffs should voluntarily grant it relief that this Court has twice denied
 8 because the Court might resolve Amazon's motion to compel relatively soon. *See* Hudson Decl.
 9 ¶ 16, Ex. 10 (Oct. 1, 2019 T. Newby Email) ("If the motion to compel arbitration is granted after
 10 oral argument, obviously no discovery would proceed."). But Plaintiffs cannot presume to know
 11 when this Court will issue a ruling on Amazon's motion. And Plaintiffs certainly are not required
 12 to assume in the meantime that Amazon will prevail on that motion. *See Younger v. Michael &*
 13 *Assocs., P.C.*, No. 13-CV-1679 YGR, 2014 WL 1760827, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2014)
 14 (rejecting defendants' argument "that plaintiff should have agreed to stay discovery given the
 15 pendency of defendants' motions to dismiss" because "[p]laintiff was not required to assume that
 16 he would lose those motions"). Indeed, as explained in Plaintiffs' response to that motion,
 17 Amazon's request for arbitration in this case is literally unprecedented, and should be denied. Dkt.
 18 48 (Opp. to Mtn. to Compel Arbitration) at 6. Moreover, this Court has warned the parties that it
 19 intends to keep this case moving, has twice denied Amazon's requests for stays, and has set a
 20 discovery deadline that is earlier than even Plaintiffs had requested. In that context, it is absurd
 21 to suggest that a substantial portion of the discovery period should be permitted to lapse on the
 22 assumption that the Court might simply reset its schedule if and when Amazon's motion to compel
 23 is denied. *Cf. Daniel J. Hartwig Assocs., Inc. v. Kanner*, 913 F.2d 1213, 1223 (7th Cir. 1990)
 24 ("The proper course of action is [for defendant] to request that the district court enter a stay of
 25 discovery until all jurisdictional issues are decided; it is not proper to unilaterally forego discovery
 26 and then expect the trial court to change its trial calendar if it finds that personal jurisdiction is
 27 proper.")

1 It should go without saying that the filing of a motion is not the same thing as a motion
 2 being granted. *3BA Int'l LLC v. Lubahn*, No 10-cv-829, 2012 WL 12845638, at *3 (W.D. Wash.
 3 Mar. 23, 2012) (Jones, J.) (“3BA’s counsel surely knows that a request for a stay is not a stay.”);
 4 *Zaldivar v. T-Mobile USA*, No. 07-cv-169, 2008 WL 11344660, *6 (W.D. Wash. May 2, 2008)
 5 (Jones, J.) (criticizing defendant who “refused to meet case management obligations merely
 6 because its motions to compel arbitration were pending” and warning “that sanctions will result if
 7 any party avoids those obligations without a court order authorizing it to do so”); *see also Barker*
 8 *v. Kapsch Trafficcom USA, Inc.*, No. 19-cv-00987, 2019 WL 2524247, at *2 (S.D. Ind. June 18,
 9 2019) (“[D]iscovery was not stayed by the filing of Defendants’ motion to stay discovery (much
 10 like this matter is not dismissed pending a ruling on Defendants’ motion to dismiss) . . . ”); *Norm*
 11 *Thompson Outfitters, Inc. v. Starcrest Prod. of California, Inc.*, No. 03-cv-1149, 2004 WL 957774,
 12 at *3 (D. Or. May 4, 2004) (compelling discovery and sanctioning defendant where “[d]efendant
 13 has largely refused to participate in the discovery process, arguing that discovery should be stayed
 14 pending resolution of the Motion to Dismiss[and e]ssentially, defendant has granted itself a stay
 15 of discovery without plaintiff’s consent or the court’s approval”); *First Am. Title Ins. Co. v.*
 16 *Commerce Assocs., LLC*, No. 2:15-cv-832, 2016 WL 951175, at *3 (D. Nev. Mar. 8, 2016)
 17 (rejecting party’s arguments that “it will prevail in its motion to dismiss [and thus] is not obligated
 18 to participate in discovery” because those arguments “were addressed, and rejected, when the court
 19 denied Defendants’ motion to stay discovery”). But this basic premise of civil litigation is
 20 unfortunately not common ground in this case.

21 Amazon has granted itself the stay it twice failed to obtain from the Court, and is using
 22 that self-granted stay to run out the clock on the short class discovery period. The Court should
 23 put a stop to that behavior, and make clear early in this case that the parties must comply with the
 24 Court’s orders and deadlines unless and until they obtain relief from them.

25 **B. Amazon’s Boilerplate Objections and Noncompliance with Rule 34(b)(2)(C)**
 26 **Evince a Fundamental Disregard for Amazon’s Discovery Obligations and**
 the Court’s Scheduling Order.

27 Beyond its insistence that discovery should be stayed regardless of the Court’s prior orders,
 28 Amazon has further frustrated the discovery process with its boilerplate objections to Plaintiffs’

1 discovery requests. *See, e.g.*, Hudson Decl. ¶ 6, Ex. 7, Resp. No. 4. Courts in this District have
 2 made clear time and again that “the withholding of requested discovery on [the] basis [of an
 3 objection], when such an objection has not been properly asserted, is unacceptable and will not be
 4 tolerated.” *Trotsky v. Travelers Indem. Co.*, No. 11-cv-2144-JCC, 2013 WL 12116153, at *3
 5 (W.D. Wash. May 8, 2013); *see also Treemo, Inc. v. Flipboard, Inc.*, No. 13-cv-1218-JPD, 2014
 6 WL 12029197 at *1–2 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 14, 2014) (ordering resubmission of discovery responses
 7 and sanctioning objecting party where discovery responses contained “boilerplate objections,
 8 refusals to answer or produce without a protective order, and references to the attorney-client
 9 privilege,” and noting that “[t]he Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has long held that boilerplate
 10 objections to interrogatories are insufficient”) (*citing Davis v. Fendler*, 650 F.2d 1154, 1160 (9th
 11 Cir. 1981)).

12 Judge Jones highlighted the problem at length in response to a responding defendant
 13 simply reiterating its boilerplate general objections in response to each interrogatory. *See*
 14 *Weidenhamer*, 2015 WL 1292978, at *7. Calling such tactics “obstructionist, dilatory, and, in too
 15 many instances, facially false,” Judge Jones noted:

16 There were perhaps valid objections [defendant] might have made
 17 to some of the discovery requests. Perhaps [defendant] even made
 18 some valid objections. The court can only guess, in part because
 19 [defendant’s] initial responses are not in the record, and in part
 because any valid objections are buried in the obstructionist muck
 of [defendant’s] “General Objections.”

20 *Id.* at *7. Judge Jones continued, explaining that the defendant’s boilerplate objections

21 flout [the defendant’s Rule 33 and 34] duties. They are a laundry
 22 list of objections devoid of any explanation of how each objection
 23 applies to the request to which it is allegedly responsive. They give
 24 a person reading them no basis to determine where its objections
 25 end and its responses begin. They give a person reading them no
 26 basis to begin a discussion about whether [defendant] has made a
 27 reasonable effort to identify responsive information or
 documents. . . . Using “General Objections” in the manner that
 [defendant] used them in this case is a per se violation of the Federal
 Rules of Civil Procedure. It is per se sanctionable. It is bad faith, it
 is contrary to the principles of civility that the court expects from
 parties who appear before it, and it is contrary to the spirit of the
 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which are intended to promote
 discovery, not obstruction.

1 *Id.* at *7–8. Amazon’s boilerplate objections to each and every discovery request, while not styled
 2 as “General Objections” in the manner of *Weidenhamer*, are no less obstructionist, and no more
 3 justifiable.

4 Equally egregious is Amazon’s failure to state whether documents were withheld because
 5 of *any* of its objections, in direct contravention of Rule 34(b)(2)(C). Rule 34 was amended in
 6 2015 and is not ambiguous: “[a]n objection *must* state whether any responsive materials are being
 7 withheld on the basis of that objection.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(C) (emphasis added). The reason
 8 for that amendment was simple: to “facilitate an informed discussion of the objection.” Fed. R.
 9 Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(C) advisory committee’s note to 2015 amendment. When an objecting party
 10 states whether documents are being withheld, the requesting party can narrow the scope of disputes
 11 brought before the Court. Amazon’s failure to state, or even investigate, whether it is withholding
 12 responsive documents connected to particular objections violates the express requirement of Rule
 13 34(b)(2)(C) and has wasted both Plaintiffs’ counsel’s and the Court’s time. To make matters
 14 worse, Amazon did not state whether responsive documents were withheld because it could not.
 15 Amazon’s counsel conceded during the Rule 37 conference that, having granted itself a stay,
 16 Amazon chose not to even engage in the process of identifying responsive facts or documents.
 17 See Hudson Decl. ¶ 14. In short, Amazon cannot say whether it withheld responsive documents
 18 because it did not look in the first place.⁴

19 By responding to Plaintiffs’ discovery requests with boilerplate objections and refusing to
 20 specify whether responsive documents were withheld, Amazon has frustrated both the letter and
 21 the spirit of the Federal Rules, wasted the resources of the Parties and the Court, and burned
 22 through a substantial portion of the class discovery period. Even absent its decision to grant itself
 23

24 ⁴ Further illustrating the dilatory nature of Amazon’s conduct, despite essentially refusing
 25 to engage at all with Plaintiffs’ discovery requests, Amazon nonetheless waited the maximum
 26 amount of time permitted to respond. Amazon could have informed Plaintiffs on the day they
 27 served discovery that it was refusing to engage in discovery or even look for responsive
 28 documents. While that would still have been wholly improper, Plaintiffs could at least have
 brought this dispute to the Court immediately. Instead, Amazon has attempted to run out the clock
 on Plaintiffs’ discovery period while having no good faith intention of engaging in the discovery
 process at all.

1 a stay twice denied by the Court, that behavior would be improper. In conjunction with its self-
2 granted stay, it represents “a per se violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” *See*
3 *Weidenhamer*, 2015 WL 1292978, at *8.

V. CONCLUSION

5 Amazon has made abundantly clear its belief that discovery “should be stayed” pending
6 resolution of the motion to compel arbitration. However strongly it may hold that belief, the Court
7 has disagreed twice. Discovery is ongoing, and neither Amazon’s motion to compel arbitration
8 nor its boilerplate objections justify its refusal to respond. Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully
9 request that the Court grant their Motion to Compel Discovery Responses, order Amazon to
10 respond fully to Plaintiffs’ requests within ten days, and award Plaintiffs their attorneys’ fees and
11 costs incurred in bringing this motion.⁵

13 | Dated: October 3, 2019

By: /s/ Lauren Hudson

Lauren Hudson, WSBA #55124
QUINN EMANUEL
URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP
600 University St., Ste. 2800
Seattle, WA 98101
Tel.: 206.905.7075
Fax: 206.905.7100
laurenudson@quinnemanuel.com

Andrew H. Schapiro (*pro hac vice*)
Stephen Wedlow (*pro hac vice*)
QUINN EMANUEL
URQUHART & SULLIVAN, LLP
191 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2700
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel: 312.705.7400
Fax: 312.705.7401
andrewschapiro@quinnemanuel.com
stephenswedlow@quinnemanuel.com

26 ⁵ The earliest date for which this motion could be noticed after the parties met and conferred
27 was October 18, 2019. However, if the Court concludes that it would be efficient to discuss this
28 motion at the hearing on Amazon’s motion to compel arbitration—which has already been
calendared for October 17, 2019—Plaintiffs will be prepared to do so.

1 Ashley C. Keller (*pro hac vice*)
2 Travis D. Lenkner (*pro hac vice*)
3 J. Dominick Larry (*pro hac vice*)
4 KELLER LENKNER LLC
5 150 N. Riverside Plaza, Ste. 4270
6 Chicago, IL 60606
7 Tel.: 312.741.5220
8 Fax: 312.971.3502
9 ack@kellerlenkner.com
10 tdl@kellerlenkner.com
11 nl@kellerlenkner.com

12 Warren D. Postman (*pro hac vice*)
13 KELLER LENKNER LLC
14 1300 Street N.W., Suite 400E
15 Washington, D.C.
16 Tel.: 202.749.8334
17 Fax: 312.971.3502
18 wdp@kellerlenkner.com

19 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Putative Classes*

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that, on October 3, 2019, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing
3 to be filed in this Court's CM/ECF system, which sent notification of such filing to counsel of
4 record.

5 _____
6 /s/ Lauren Hudson

Lauren Hudson, WSBA #55124

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